

## Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

FOR IOP/M

IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, ENTITLED "A SOBER  
SUGGESTION" THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) OF JUNE 18 (EVENING)  
COMMENTS:

"PREMIER RABIN'S REPORT TO HIS CABINET HAS BEEN DUTIFULLY EXAMINED.  
THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING RESTATES THE VIEW  
OFTEN STATED IN TEL AVIV THAT ISRAEL IS READY TO MAKE FURTHER  
CONCESSIONS TO EGYPT, PROVIDED EGYPT DID THE SAME. THIS HAS BEEN  
REPEATED SO OFTEN THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES NOT  
TO SEE THAT THE BALL IS AT THEIR FEET. WHAT THE TERMS OF THE NEW  
AGREEMENT - AS PART OF THE FINAL OVERALL SETTLEMENT WILL BE, IS  
STILL HARD TO DEFINITE ACCURATELY, BUT, IT SEEMS THAT ISRAEL IS  
PREPARED TO GIVE UP THE ABU RUDAIS OILFIELD AND THE GREATER PART  
OF THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES PROVIDED THAT EGYPT UNDERTAKES TO  
GIVE THE AGREEMENT A MINIMUM LIFE OF THREE YEARS, WITH A  
CORRESPONDING MANDATE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE.

THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO FISH IN STILL WATERS TO BRANDISH UP THE  
ARGUMENT AGAINST ISRAEL THAT THIS MEANS NO FURTHER CHANGES FOR  
THE NEXT THREE YEARS; BUT IT IS MORE CORRECT TO SAY THAT ISRAEL  
IS TRYING TO ENSURE THAT IF, IN SPITE OF THE EFFORTS MADE TO  
REACH PEACE FAIL, EGYPT WILL NOT RESORT TO WAR. WHETHER PRESIDENT  
SADAT WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE HIS FELLOW ARABS THAT THIS IS THE  
RIGHT FORMULA UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IF HE CAN WITHSTAND  
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THE PRESSURE THAT WILL BE INEVITABLY COMING FROM THE MORE RADICAL

ELEMENT IN THE ARAB FOLD, REMAIN TO BE SEEN.

CERTAINLY PRESIDENT SADAT IS ENJOYING A STATURE WITH HIS CO-RELIONISTS AS NEVER BEFORE, AND HE CAN STILL RELY ON THE SUPPORT FROM SAUDI ARABIA. HOWEVER, THE WORLD WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHETHER THE MEETING CALLED FOR BY THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA LEADER YASSER ARAFAT, AND ALL THAT HE CAN GATHER, WILL SHAKE THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT FROM THE LINE THAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE AS SOBER AS ANYTHING THAT HAS COME EGYPT'S WAY. THE ISRAELI SUGGESTION CANNOT BE SAID TO BE A RUSE TO GAIN TIME. THE ISRAELIS HAVE LONG BEEN INTENT ON FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST TROUBLES. AND THEY HAVE TRIED TO REMOVE ARAB SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY. THEY REALISE IT IS AN UPHILL TASK, BUT SEE NO REASON WHY, WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, IT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED."BIRN

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